

WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Comprehensive Health Services for Central Connecticut

The University of Connecticut’s John Dempsey Hospital has been mired in financial problems for a number of years. While several plans were put forth on how to fix the troubled health center,



I recently joined Dr. Steven Hanks and Dr. Cato Laurencin at the Hospital for Central Connecticut’s New Britain campus to answers questions during a news conference on the plans for a new hospital for the University of Connecticut Medical School.

none took into account the regional impact of such an undertaking.

This year, I advocated for a comprehensive plan that takes all of central Connecticut into consideration. The plan includes \$5 million for a cancer treatment center and a clinical trials unit in New Britain and for improvement to the Hospital of Central Connecticut’s oncology unit. It also creates a shared network and a new bioscience enterprise zone encompassing not only Hartford but also portions of Farmington and New Britain.

Aid For Our Towns

A very important part of my job representing the people of the 6th State Senate District is ensuring **New Britain, Berlin and Farmington** receive their fair share of state funding. I am pleased to report the following grants and reimbursements from the state in Fiscal Year 2010–2011.

	Fiscal Year 10–11
Total Education Grants	\$85,231,326
Town Aid Road Fund Grant	\$736,783
Mashantucket Pequot & Mohegan Fund Grant	\$2,431,583
Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)	\$1,146,794
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$8,619,335
<b>Total State Funds to the 6th Senate District</b>	<b>\$98,165,822</b>

Home Care Co-pay Relief for Seniors



Seniors who can stay at home and out of nursing homes live longer, more active lives at a significantly lower cost to individuals and the state. The Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders helps keep eligible seniors in their homes at a tremendous cost savings. However,

due to the state’s financial crisis, a new co-pay was put in place in January. I believed that this co-pay was far too high, which is why I supported a reduction of the co-pay to 6 percent—a far more reasonable rate for this important senior-care program.




Dear Neighbor,

Everywhere I go constituents tell me the same thing: they want state government to focus on growing jobs and balancing the budget. I got the message.


This session we worked with Governor Rell to pass a historic bipartisan jobs bill. The initiative helps businesses get access to the capital and credit that they need to thrive. We also made Connecticut an easier place to do business by cutting back on red tape and streamlining the regulatory process.

We tackled the budget deficit the same way. By working together, we balanced the budget without raising taxes or cutting municipal aid. Instead, we made significant cuts to state spending, eliminated \$422 million in authorized bond projects, maximized federal aid and reduced borrowing.


As always, I look forward to hearing from you as Connecticut continues on the road to recovery.

Sincerely,  
  
Donald DeFronzo  
State Senator

Stay Informed in a “Green” Way

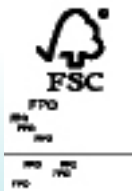


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I’m proud to represent the citizens of:  
**New Britain, Berlin and Farmington**

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SUMMER 2010

## NEW LAWS

### Helping Connecticut Schools Race to the Top

The Obama Administration's Race to the Top program made \$4.3 billion available to states that reform public education. To meet that challenge, we approved a landmark education bill that uses technology to track students' academic growth, creates new teacher accountability standards and provides options to fix failing schools. With these reforms Connecticut will have a better shot at securing Race to the Top funds, closing the achievement gap and ensuring that our graduates can compete in the global economy.



### Assisting Small Businesses in Tough Times



Small business is the engine that drives Connecticut's economy. With that in mind, we retroactively extended tax exemptions to business owners in targeted investment communities and enterprise zones that have purchased machinery and equipment used for manufacturing, biotechnology or recycling. I'm happy to announce that businesses located in New Britain qualify for this tax exemption.

### The Great Outdoors—On a Budget

If you enjoy the great outdoors, you'll be happy to learn that the legislature reduced recent increases in hunting, fishing, camping and park entrance fees. An example of the savings for Connecticut residents: a pass during the weekend at Hammonasset State Park has been rolled back by about \$7 approved rebates next year for those who purchased certain licenses before the price cut was enacted.



## GROWING JOBS

There was no greater priority this legislative session than helping Connecticut create high-quality jobs. We worked with Governor Rell to do just that. Some economists call our landmark bipartisan jobs bill the most important jobs initiative that the General Assembly has ever considered. Provisions of the new law include:



- ▶ Loans and lines of credit for small businesses to help fund expansions, additional hires or new equipment
- ▶ Sales-tax exemptions for machinery, supplies and fuel used in renewable energy industries
- ▶ Loan reimbursements and training grants for education and careers in green technology, life sciences and health information technology
- ▶ Pre-seed financing and technical services to businesses developing innovative concepts
- ▶ Tax credits for angel investments in bioscience, photonics, information technology and green technology businesses

This law is an example of what can happen when business leaders, academics and small-business owners from across the state come together with one common goal: help Connecticut grow jobs.

### Working Together to Balance the Budget

The 2010 legislative session began with the state facing a projected deficit of more than \$1.2 billion for the current two-year budget. Despite the daunting task of closing the deficit, we were able to work together in a bipartisan fashion with the governor to balance the budget. We did it without raising taxes or cutting municipal aid. Instead, we cut state spending by hundreds of millions of dollars, reduced borrowing and worked hard to maximize federal funding.



### Protecting the State's Credit in Tough Times

The global recession caused state revenues to plummet and even jeopardized Connecticut's credit rating. Bond-rating agencies warned that unless the state acted decisively, our ability to borrow for important projects at an affordable rate could be affected. We took aggressive action to de-authorize or reduce \$422 million in previously approved projects this year—bringing us safely under the bonding cap while preserving credit and helping to control future debt.

## HELPFUL RESOURCES

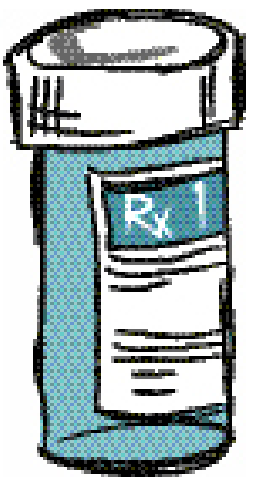


### ENERGY SAVINGS

- ▶ **Save on Your Electric Bill**  
**Choose Your Electric Supplier**—The rate you pay for the generation portion of your electric bill may be lowered by ten percent.  
1-888-922-3782 or [www.ctenergyinfo.com](http://www.ctenergyinfo.com)
- ▶ **State Sales Tax Exemptions**  
Connecticut provides sales tax exemptions for energy-efficient products including:  
Insulation • Caulking • Doors • Fluorescent light bulbs  
Furnaces • Geothermal heat pumps • Windows  
Programmable thermostats • Water heaters

### FOR SENIORS

- ▶ **Medicare Savings Programs (MSP)**  
By joining MSP, **eligible seniors could save \$1,000 per year or more in Medicare Part B premiums**, and the Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidy would lower prescription co-payments. Most individuals in ConnPACE are eligible for Medicare and can enroll in MSP.  
  
As a ConnPACE member, your pharmacy co-payment is now \$16.25. **Your pharmacy co-pay could be reduced to as low as \$2.50 for generics and \$6.30 for brand-name drugs** on Medicare Part D's Drug list. For more information, call **CHOICES** at 1-800-994-9422, speak to a representative at 211, or visit [www.ct.gov/dss/medicaresavingsprograms](http://www.ct.gov/dss/medicaresavingsprograms).



### Additional Resources and Links

Follow links to these special pages from [www.senatedems.ct.gov](http://www.senatedems.ct.gov):

- ▶ Resources for Jobseekers
- ▶ Protecting Homeowners, Preventing Foreclosures
- ▶ Veterans' Guide
- ▶ Health Care Programs in Connecticut
- ▶ A Guide to the State Budget